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weaving factories in Java, were the leading developments in local textile industries, but the bulk of cloth and even of raw cotton has been brought in from abroad. Just before the war Southeast Asia was absorbing textiles to the value of well over $300 million per annum; much of it was cheap cloth from Europe, India and Japan, but there was a substantial need for the very finest cotton cloth produced anywhere and quite an exacting local standard of qualities. Should this huge demand for textiles stimulate local industry within the new nationalist units, Burma, Siam and Indochina may improve the quality and output of their present scanty and very inferior raw cotton.

Road and rail management, engineering maintenance and port industries form a leading group of mechanical industries directly affecting local techniques and introducing forms of industrialisation on western lines. The capital equipment for these activities is imported as are nearly all metal manufactures for other purposes. Manufactured goods form the largest single category of goods moving into Southeast Asia, to a total of nearly $500 million annually before the war. These manufactured imports chiefly went to urban consumers, yet simple farming tools and articles like needles and scissors went in large quantities far into every country. Although this category was broad, the components were very varied so that the value of each ranked comparatively low. Manufactured articles of western type showed little sign of being made locally, except in Java where successful attempts at making electric equipment had gone on for some years to supply the Southeast Asia markets with very cheap electrical goods like lamps and filaments, suggesting the possibility that Java may become industrialised on the Japanese pattern for mass production methods, and using part-time or women workers. In neighbouring territories, however, there are no such immediate prospects because labour has proved costly in proportion to its skill.

Mining Industries and Prospects

Mining industries of great value have developed in Malaya, Burma, Sumatra, Borneo, the Philippines and the small islands east of Sumatra. Tin and petroleum have been the region's specialities so far and these have assumed great importance, combining to be chiefly responsible for the prewar annual exports of about $650 million of mineral products from Southeast Asia